

## **T-25-1 – “Effect of Habitat Management Practices on Avian Communities in Northwestern Louisiana”**

*Abstract:* Management activities may effect several bird species of conservation concern. This study provided a detailed inventory of the bird community on Loggy Bayou, Bayou Pierre, and Jackson-Bienville Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). The objective was to establish baseline data on avian communities in relationship to the existing habitats on the WMAs. Permanent transects with 3 sample points per transect were established throughout the study areas. Bird communities were sampled using point counts and Nesting Activity Indicators. Conservation priority status of bird species was determined using lists provided by Partners in Flight and the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program. Habitat measures included tree species composition, canopy closure, and ground cover class. Ten of the 12 species of concern listed on the Partners in Flight list were present on at least one of the WMAs studied. None of the species for which nesting activity was detected are listed by Partners in Flight as “Critical Recovery” or “Immediate Management”. Nesting Activity Indicators were not detected for any federally- or state-listed endangered species. The most abundant bird species included Hooded Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Yellow-breasted Chat, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, American Crow, and Pine Warbler. The three WMAs studied provide habitat for many birds during the breeding season. Many of the birds breeding on the three WMAs represent species for which there is regional concern. The data presented can provide a baseline to evaluate changes in bird communities relative to management activities in the future.

(Abstracted by A. Ardoin {2007} from: “*Breeding Bird Species and Habitat Characteristics on Three Wildlife Management Areas in North Louisiana*”; Final Report (December 2006); Gabrey, S.W. and A. M. Gaspard; Northwestern State University; Natchitoches, LA; 37 pp.)

This grant was closed 31 December 2006. **For more information** about State Wildlife Grant T-25, or to obtain copies of interim or final reports, please contact the State Wildlife Grant Coordinator, LDWF Fur & Refuge Division.